

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 4951

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, HO

SUBJECT: AGRARIAN REFORM LAW

1. TODAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1974, HONDURAN CHIEF OF STATE GENERAL LOPEZ TOLD ME THAT THE RENEWAL OF CABINET MEETINGS AFTER HURRICANE FIFI SIGNALLED THE LAST PHASE OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MUCH DISCUSSED AGRARIAN REFORM LAW. HE SAID THAT PRIVATE SECTOR OPPOSITION COULD NOT BE DIMINISHED BY FURTHER DIALOGUE SINCE THE PRIVATE SECTOR POSITION WAS AGAINST ANY FORM OF AGRARIAN REFORM.

2. COMMENT: THIS IS INTERESTING, SINCE SEVERAL MEMBERS OF COHEP TOLD ME PRIVATELY DURING LAZAR LUNCHEON HERE THAT THEY FELT AGRARIAN REFORM WAS INEVITABLE, AND THEY COULD ACCEPT IT IF THE GOVERNMENT WOULD MODIFY ITS POSITION AWAY FROM A "COMPLETELY CONFISCATORY ONE".

3. GENERAL LOPEZ SAID THAT THE DELAYS HAD SERVED ONLY TO INCREASE PRESSURES AND TENSIONS OF BOTH PROPONENTS AND OPPONENTS OF AGRARIAN REFORM. IN ANSWER TO MY QUESTION HE ADDED THAT AGRARIAN REFORM PLUS RELATED PROPERTY AND PROPERTY TAX LEGISLATION SHOULD BE PUBLISHED NO LATER THAN MID-DECEMBER.

SANCHEZ

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